

To Whom it May Concern:

The deranged cowards that staged attacks in Sandy Hook and elsewhere did so knowing that their intended victims were defenseless prey. Those perpetrators were terrorists; yet no one has dared to call them that. Banning high-capacity magazines, so-called assault weapons, kitchen knives, or stones will accomplish nothing. What will happen when an attack is staged using a Molotov cocktail or a bomb made from readily available household chemicals? Strict gun control in Japan did not prevent the gas attack in the Tokyo subway system. Timothy McVeigh's bombing of the Murrah Building is strangely unmentioned in the current rants. The worst attack on an American school was the 1927 bombing of a school in Bath, Michigan that killed 38 children and 8 adults. That bit of history has been overlooked by persons that think that abridging the Constitutional rights of law-abiding gun owners is somehow going to prevent the mentally unbalanced, terrorists, and criminals (often one person embodies all of those traits) from perpetrating acts of violence.

The United States is one of the relatively few countries where one may travel freely without fear of being kidnapped or killed by some extremist group. Drug cartels do not engage in mass murders in the US nor do they intimidate the American citizenry. That is not because Americans are pacifists or because we have an omnipotent police presence; it's because extremist groups cannot exist long in an armed, free society.

It is incomprehensible and shameful that while some television channels carried live coverage of vigils for the tragedy at Sandy Hook, other channels were showing movies with rampant gore and mayhem. The younger generation has become indoctrinated to violence from an early age. That should be changed. Many celebrities campaign against guns, but they often make their millions by glorifying violence.

The attackers in the mall and school attacks have been intelligent, yet troubled persons that exhibited signs of potential problems that went untreated. The shooter at Sandy Hook had a known history of problems, yet, like so many others, he simply fell through the large mesh in the safety net. This latest tragedy could have been prevented by personalized intervention rather than by broadcast restrictive gun controls. The media asks why Lanza's mother had a "cache of high-powered weapons" instead of pondering why his past issues went ignored or untreated.

Small town America is becoming much like Tel Aviv or Kabul or Baghdad. Given the intelligence level of the typical American terrorist/murderer, devices that cause more mass-destruction may likely be increasingly employed. Society and government have not searched for answers in proper places, but are reacting with emotion instead of logic. The prevention of violence can not be accomplished with a one-size-fits-all, feel-good solution in the form of gun control.

Placing trained, armed personnel in schools will aid in preventing not only potentially fatal acts, but will also curb bullying, drug abuse and other dangerous activity. Reducing the general public's exposure to violent movies and games and promoting education in basic human values will help in preventing violence. Above all else, mental health professionals and government at the state and national levels **must** take steps to deal with disturbed individuals. Take positive, preventative action at the human end of the chain.

Police and military weapons are often stolen and misused. Should the military be disarmed? Banning weapons that might have a feature like a bayonet lug or banning magazines just because they hold a certain number of shots will not accomplish anything. Enforce the current laws and take positive steps to stop glorifying violence.

Sincerely,
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